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25X1 S E C R E T 301340Z NOV 69 CITE SAIGON 820

HEADQUARTERS



REF HEADQUARTERS 578

1. PROBLEM OUTLINED REF HAS NO READY SOLUTION. MOST ACCURATE DATA ON ARVN KIA ARE MONTHLY FIGURES, WHICH ARE GENERALLY MORE REFINED IN ALL PHASES OF COMBAT REPORTING AND CONSEQUENTLY STAND UP BETTER IN HISTORICAL RETROSPECT. AS YOU REALIZE, ANY WEEKLY FIGURE SERIES ISSUED IMMEDIATELY AFTER WEEK IN QUESTION IS SUBJECT TO DRASTIC REVISION.

2. STRINGENT THOUGH NECESSARY GROUND RULES ON THIS EXERCISE ALSO GREATLY COMPLICATE STATION'S PROBLEMS. NEEDED DATA MUST IN EFFECT BE ELICITED FROM MACV. QUERIES ON DISCREPANCIES, PARTICULARLY URGENT QUERIES KEYED TO REPETITIVE WEEKLY TIME CYCLE, WOULD INEVITABLY GENERATE MACV CURIOSITY AND SWIFTLY LEAD OUR MILITARY COLLEAGUES TO CONCLUDE SOMETHING FUNNY WAS UP.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM REF WHERE YOU OBTAIN TWO OF THE THREE DATA SERIES CITED, NAMELY THE MACV WEEKLY SUMMARY

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PAGE TWO SAIGON 820 S E C R E T

ON ARVN KIA AND THE UPDATE (A WEEK LATER), SINCE NEITHER OF
THESE ARE BEING REGULARLY REPORTED BY THIS STATION. WE READ
REF AS SAYING THAT OUR CUSTOMER UNDERSTANDS THE INEVITABLE
DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE WEEKLY FIGURE (ISSUED IMMEDIATELY
AFTER THE END OF THE WEEK IN QUESTION) AND THE LATER UPDATE,
BUT THAT HE IS TROUBLED BY THE FACT THAT THE PRESS FIGURE
25X1 AGREES WITH NEITHER OF THE OTHER TWO.